Mountain Weather Forecast

Southwest Highlands

Including Ben Nevis, Glen Coe and the rest of Lochaber, Argyll including the Isles, Loch Lomond, Trossachs and Arran

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Wednesday 20 Dec 2023 until 23:59 on Thursday 21 Dec 2023

Forecast Issued on Tuesday 19 Dec 2023 at 15:54 by Met Office Aberdeen

Confidence: High for an unsettled weather pattern on lead up to Christmas. Very windy conditions will make walking difficult over higher ridges and summits with storm force winds on Thursday.

Headline for Wednesday 20 Dec 2023: Cloudy. Outbreaks of rain, early snow higher peaks. Very windy and feeling bitterly cold.

Mountain weather hazards on Wednesday 20 Dec 2023

Blizzards
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
No Likelihood

Storm force winds
Low Likelihood

Gales
High Likelihood

Severe chill effect
High Likelihood

Poor visibility
Medium Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
Low Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Heavy snow showers (night)	Light snow showers (night)	Cloudy	Sleet	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Light rain	Light rain
Precipitation probability							
50%	40%	20%	70%	60%	60%	50%	30%

Forecast for Wednesday 20 Dec 2023

Weather: Cloudy with showers then more persistent rain extending east soon after dawn. Snow initially above 800m, turning to rain at all levels by afternoon. Rain will be heavy at times, especially over mountains of Glencoe and Lochaber.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Little chance in west of area but 40% east.

Low Cloud and visibility: Misty conditions soon developing, especially in the west with poor visibility in persistent rain and also in clouds which will be well down the hills. Pockets of good visibility over the Trossachs with cloud bases about 700 to 900m.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/specialist-forecasts/mountain
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Forecast for Wednesday 20 Dec 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1300	48/59 W	42/52 W	37/46 W	43/52 W	47/59 W	46/59 W	47/61 W	47/62 W	55/72 W
900	33/43 W	27/35 W	25/33 W	27/36 W	34/45 W	33/45 W	35/48 W	36/51 W	40/57 W
600	32/42 W	24/32 W	22/30 W	26/34 SW	33/44 W	34/45 W	35/48 W	36/50 W	40/56 W
300	19/28 NW	15/24 W	11/19 W	13/21 W	20/32 W	19/32 W	20/33 W	19/33 W	22/37 W
Glen	11/26 W	9/21 W	8/20 W	8/20 SW	15/33 W	16/34 W	16/35 W	15/34 W	19/40 W

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1300	-3/-14	-4/-14	-3/-12	-0/-9	1/-8	1/-7	2/-7	1/-7	2/-8
900	-1/-9	-1/-9	-1/-8	1/-5	3/-4	4/-3	4/-3	4/-3	4/-4
600	2/-6	1/-5	2/-5	4/-2	5/-1	6/-0	6/-0	6/-0	6/-0
300	4/-1	4/-1	4/0	6/2	8/3	8/4	8/4	8/4	8/3
Glen	6/3	6/3	6/4	8/5	9/6	10/6	10/7	10/7	10/7
Freezing Level*	800m	700m	800m	1300m	1500m	1500m	1600m	1500m	1600m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Met Office Aberdeen Meteorologist's View
Feeling bitterly cold with very strong, gusty winds making walking very difficult. Note winds expected to increase to storm force during evening.

Forecast for Thursday 21 Dec 2023
Weather: A very windy and cold day with bright spells and blustery showers. The showers turning increasingly to snow above about 600m.

Maximum wind: Severe gale force west or Northwest winds reaching storm force on the tops. Average speeds of 50mph with gusts 70 to 80mph.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 40%

Low Cloud and visibility: Occasionally good visibility with occasional cloud cover above 700 to 800m. Marked reductions to poor visibility as showers pass by with clouds briefly lower down the hills.

Temperature: **Glens:** Plus 7 Celsius.
At 800m: Plus 4 Celsius falling to Minus 1 Celsius.
Freezing level: 1200m falling to 700m.

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